GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:198
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2008
SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER IN THE REGIONAL PASSPORT OFFICES
Pallani Shamy Shri K.C .

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of staff in many of the Regional Passport Offices (RPOs) which results in overloading, delay in issuance of passports and smooth functioning of RPOs;

(b) if so, the details thereof, RPO-wise;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to fill the vacant posts in all the RPOs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) There is general shortage of staff in most Passport Offices, as growth in manpower has not kept pace with increase in the number of passport applications. The number of passports issued by the Central Passport Organisation (CPO) went up by 123% between 1997 to 2007 (from 22.2 lakh in 1997 to 49.4 lakh in 2007). However, the percentage growth of staff strength of the CPO during the same period has been 25.41%.

(b) The RPO-wise staff shortage list is enclosed as an annexure.

(c) & (d) The Government has placed an indent to fill up the vacancies with the Staff Selection Commission.

(e) Not applicable.